

April 6th, 2005

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

MUR # 5653

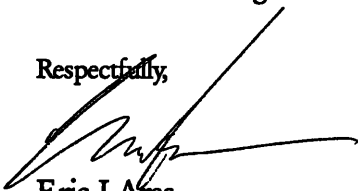
Dear General Counsel,

I am writing an official complaint to notify the Federal Election Commission of a violation(s) to Federal Election Campaign Laws committed by The Observer, Inc. The Observer, Inc., a registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible organization, published a newspaper dated October 12, 2004 with the words "The Observer Endorses Bush-Cheney" on the front page (copy of paper is included). The paper was subsequently distributed on the Boston College campus, as well as on the internet. The Observer went on to outline their official endorsement in their editorial entitled "President Bush Deserves Your Support on November 2nd" (page 9, 10/12/04 edition). The editorial also features the Bush-Cheney official logo in the center of the endorsement. Also included are the names of 13 editors and the webmaster of The Observer, Inc. Because the violation occurred on both the front page of the newsletter and in an editorial it was unclear exactly who is responsible for the violation. Additionally, the violation on the front page states that the organization itself, "The Observer," has endorsed a candidate. However, in the same publication on page 14 the following people are listed with their positions: the Editor-In-Chief is Christopher L Pizzo (Email: editoremeritus@thebcoobserver.com), Executive Editor is Ray Jeandron, Managing Editor is Brad Easterbrooks, and Senior Editor is Mike Dixon, among others (page 14, 10/12/04 edition).

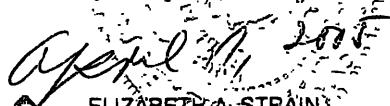
I am submitting documentation regarding this complaint. The front page of the newsletter (dated 10/12/04) shows the first violation: "The Observer Endorses Bush-Cheney." Page 9 (the second piece of evidence) is the editorial endorsing Bush-Cheney with the Bush-Cheney logo. And finally page 14 (the third piece of evidence) states "The Observer, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible." This page also lists the names of 13 editors and the webmaster who are responsible for this publication.

The address of The Observer, Inc is also listed as: The Observer, Inc., Boston College, Box L-132 McElroy Commons, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. The e-mail address is thebcoobserver@hotmail.com. Website for the newsletter in question: <http://www.thebcoobserver.com/pdf/observer13.pdf> Official website of the organization: <http://www.thebcoobserver.com/>

Respectfully,


Eric J Ares
1009 W 22Nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90007




ELIZABETH A. STRAIN
Notary Public
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
My Commission Expires
March 13, 2009

25044122767

The Observer, not a tax-deductible charity

The three basic facts:

1) "*The Observer*, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible."

[http://www.thebcoobserver.com/\(tr4zuq14awqnifn3aavkx45\)/AboutUs.aspx?IssueID=13](http://www.thebcoobserver.com/(tr4zuq14awqnifn3aavkx45)/AboutUs.aspx?IssueID=13)

They make this statement on their website, inside the actual paper, and on any ads they place for donations.

2) 501 (c)3 is a tax code recognized by the IRS as being a charity, and tax-deductible charities are very limited in what they can say and do politically.

"Political Campaign Activity:

Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or **public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity.** Violation of this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise tax."

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/charitable/article/0,,id=120703,00.html>

also see: http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/eo_letter.pdf

3) On October 12, 2004, The Observer (Volume XVII, No. 1) published an endorsement for Bush as president. In fact, the front page of the paper read "The Observer Endorses Bush-Cheney" The editorial went on to articulate The Observer's endorsement of Bush.

<http://www.thebcoobserver.com/pdf/observer13.pdf>

Connecting the facts:

Because The Observer is registered with the IRS as a charitable organization, they are extremely limited in what they can say about political issues. If they want to back a candidate there are several other tax options they have, but 501(c)3 is NOT one of them. They can discuss political issues, but, according to IRS policy "public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity" (IRS website, see link above). Their endorsement of the Bush-Cheney campaign clearly meets the IRS's definition of a public statement by the organization (The Observer, Inc) "in favor of . . .any candidate for public office."

At the very least, it seems they should lose their tax exempt status, and there may be harsher penalties such as "certain excise taxes"

25044122768

25044122769

On this 11th day of April, 2005,

before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared

Eric J. Mes, proved to me through satisfactory
evidence of identification, which consisted of BE Picture ID Card, to

be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document, and

who swore or affirmed to me that the contents of the document are truthful and

accurate to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.



ELIZABETH A. STRAIN
Notary Public
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
My Commission Expires
March 13, 2009

Elizabeth A. Strain

The Observer

AT BOSTON COLLEGE

Volume XVII, No. 1

Neminem Recte Faciendo Timeas

October 12, 2004

DEAN SCREAMS AT BC!

Former Candidate Discusses Life, Liberalism



John Kanca IV & Alex Noble
THE OBSERVER

The man, the myth, the scream. Fresh from campaigning for Democratic candidates across the country, Howard Dean visited BC on October 5 and entertained a crowd of nearly 3,000 in O'Neill plaza on the cold Tuesday afternoon.

Before the speech, The Observer was given the opportunity for a brief interview with the former presidential candidate Governor Dean was asked if he believed that he would have been a viable general election candidate

given that most of his support during the Democratic primary came from the far left of the political spectrum. He claimed that most of his support was not from the far left, citing his being endorsed by the NRA, his balancing of budgets, and supporting the death penalty in some cases. He said that he drew a considerable portion of his support from moderate Republicans.

The Observer also asked Governor Dean if he believes it is important for universities to spend equal time and money on conservative and liberal speakers during an election year so as to educate the student body on the issues in

a fair and unbiased way. He indicated that both sides of the political spectrum should be heard and that it's important to have thoughtful people on both sides of the spectrum lay out the rationale for why they believe what they believe in. He also mentioned that the speakers should be of merit. "But you've got to have quality — it doesn't pay to get someone like Ann Coulter, who's dumb as a post, because she doesn't know anything and she doesn't care. What you want to have is a person who is articulate, who cares, and who is willing to give more than the party line, and if you do that on both sides, then a lot of people are going to benefit from it."

The real excitement began once Dean opened his speech by boldly and accurately predicting a Red Sox victory in that afternoon's game. He quickly switched to the topic of voter registration, and gave many in the audience what they had come to hear.

"Voter registration deadlines — now I know, everybody wants to vote here, but, it'd be a lot more helpful if you'd vote in New Mexico, or Missouri, or Virginia, OR IOWA, OR WISCONSIN, OR NEW HAMPSHIRE!"

With the reenactment of

the "scream speech," the audience went wild. After the cheering subsided, he moved on to more serious topics, naming numerous problems he perceives with the actions of the Bush administration. After solemnly intoning that the United States was "for the first time" not respected internationally due to the military intervention against the murderous regime of Saddam Hussein, Dean launched into a routine that touched on everything from education, the economy, and even included an appeal for people in the audience to run for office.

Dean attacked President Bush's record on higher education, claiming that he is diverting funds away from the federal scholarship program. He stated that Pell Grants were cut so that people like him could have tax cuts (for the record, President Bush's 2005 federal budget includes 12.9 billion dollars earmarked exclusively for Pell Grants, representing an overall increase of 47% since 2001). Dean also linked the federal budget deficit to a purported decline in higher education funding, arguing that the federal government has cut funding that they give to states, which in turn cuts funding

Continued on page 2

UGBC Constitution: May Be Inadequate

Expulsion Hearing Demonstrates Constitutional Weakness

Chris Pizzo
THE OBSERVER

Amidst the controversy surrounding the "Freshman Disorientation," a pamphlet paid for by UGBC which maligns students in the Carroll School of Management and members of the College Republicans, a deeper flaw in student government operations has

been revealed.

The recently revised UGBC constitution, which was overhauled during the Baker/Thomas administration 2 years ago, demonstrated a number of key insufficiencies during a hearing convened to determine the fate of Ravi Kalwani, the UGBC Executive Director of Social and Cultural Issues responsible for publishing the Freshman Disorientation

tion. Issue #1: Who is authorized to bring charges against a member of UGBC?

Article IV of the UGBC Constitution begins with the words "Charges may be brought against any member of the UGBC," but fails at any point throughout the article, or the constitution at large to stipulate who is able to bring such charges. Can the stu-

dent body bring charges against an appointed or elected member of UGBC via petition? Are the Legislative Directors the only individuals empowered in this way? These questions are left unanswered.

Given this problematic situation, the student body is left to question not only the legitimacy

Continued on page 3

Double Standard No Reaction to CR Slander

Chris Hunter
THE OBSERVER

By now, the "Freshman Disorientation" packet has become the subject of political discussion and fierce debate. The Global Justice Project's well-known distorted indoctrination tool has raised the eyebrows of almost everyone on campus regardless of political affiliation. However, seemingly absent from any sort of official involvement has been the Boston College Administration, which has taken absolutely no significant action regarding the illegal distribution of the GJP's slanderous and extremely "unjust" publication.

In choosing to distribute the "Freshman Disorientation" packet by stuffing them underneath doors in residence halls, the GJP seriously violated fire codes set forth by the University. The GJP put the lives of hundreds of freshman students at risk by creating this unnecessary hazard in our residence halls. "Seemingly advocating for peace and justice, the 'Freshman Disorientation' sought to do just the opposite: specifically target and slander specific groups, mostly notably the College Republicans, the Boston College Police Department, and University President William P. Leahy. 'While some of the information was very informative, there were several inaccuracies, use of unnecessary profanity, and inappropriate targeting of specific groups on campus,' said the Dean of Student Development, refer-

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Students Speak Out!
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The Observer
Endorses
Bush-Cheney
page 9

Diversity Office
Ignores Politics,
Ideology
page 3

President Bush Deserves Your Support on November 2nd

There is a lot of talk on both sides of the political spectrum about this presidential election being the "most important of our time." The monumental nature of the issues facing the American voter at home and abroad, and the radically different approaches to those issues by the 2 major party candidates lead The Observer to conclude that this is the most important election of our time, and that due to its importance, we must support the reelection of President Bush and Vice President Cheney.

For most students at Boston College, this will be the first presidential election in which they are eligible to vote, and they must vote wisely. Furthermore, young Americans have a particular burden in this election, because the outcome of it will shape the policy issues that face us in the years to come.

What we done below is break down some of the 2 key issues this year, and justified why we feel it is not only necessary, but universally imperative that George W. Bush have a second term.

Foreign Policy and the War on Terror

Up until the attacks of September 11, 2001, the main agenda of the Bush administration focused on domestic and economic policy. However, the events of that fateful day changed not only the President's focus, but that of ordinary Americans. Since then, President Bush has embarked on a bold foreign policy agenda, the centerpiece of which focuses on ensuring that terrorists must never again threaten Americans tranquility.

existence.

Removing the Taliban from power, and capturing or killing 75% of all known Al-Qaeda leaders was the first step. President Bush's actions in Afghanistan sent a clear message to the terrorists and the states that give them safe haven: American will no longer stand by while nations provide a breeding ground for terror and oppression.

The second theatre of this War on Terror was the invasion of Iraq. A brutal dictator who repeatedly flouted international law and sought weapons of mass destruction to use against the United States and its allies was not something that could be tolerated in the post-September 11th world. President Bush acted here not on the popular opinion of some traditional allies, but on behalf of Americans safety. For this, we can be thankful.

The President's opponent, Senator John Kerry, has repeatedly called the war in Iraq the "wrong war at the wrong place at the wrong time." Why then, Senator, did you authorize the President to use force on the floor of the Senate? Why did you say that "Saddam is a brutal dictator who presents a danger to Americans safety?" And why, once our brave men and women were fighting overseas did you vote to deny them the materials they need for success?

Senator Kerry places at the centerpiece of his solution in Iraq the involvement of nations

who have said that they will never commit troops to the effort under any circumstance. His plan lacks the clear exit strategy promulgated by the Bush administration, and does not embrace the fundamental principle that a free Iraq is the greatest deterrent to the inflammation of terrorist ambitions. In short, the Senator's plan ignores reality.

An American president must lead not only our nation, but stand as the exemplar of free peoples around the world. His

election in 1996, the unemployment rate was 5.6%, and the Democratic Party claimed that more Americans were at work than ever before.

After the attacks of September 11th, corporate scandals, and the bursting dot com bubble, America was plunged into a recession. President Bush issued tax relief packages for all Americans, he increased spending on community college programs so that unskilled workers can learn the proficiencies that define 21st century jobs, and in so doing — this recession was the shortest and shallowest in American history. In just over a year this country's economy has created approximately two million jobs and keeps growing.

Senator Kerry decries the loss of manufacturing jobs, but ignores the fact that these jobs can never sustain the American economy in an ever-globalizing era. His plan for the American economy follows the standard line of liberal Democratic politicians: Raise taxes, and increase the size of government.

When the Senator talks about raising taxes on only the richest Americans, he is actually calling for a tax increase on American small businesses, which pay tax at personal income levels. If it is true that America has seen a net loss of jobs in the past four years, why would an economic plan that penalizes the very entities that cre-

ate 7 out of 10 new jobs in this country be considered feasible? It simply is not.

Tax relief for all Americans combined with reducing the size of the federal government is the only way today, as it has been for many years, to ensure the continued growth of opportunity in America. It is true that America is current running a large deficit, but considering the ever increasing security costs facing our nation, the President cannot honorably execute his job without using whatever resources he has at hand. Non-security spending has increased less than 5% during the Bush administration, which is a smaller figure than even during the Reagan era. Furthermore, President Reagan's tenure proved that running a deficit does not preclude economic growth. The President is a true fiscal conservative who understands that the same policies that apply to the American family ought to apply to the American government.

Overall Assessment

The challenges of our time require a leader with hope for the future, and an understanding of our past. The policies and expressed viewpoints of Senator Kerry on virtually every issue present a dark outlook for America, one that may do nothing less than put our lives and futures at risk. Since that future will be the prime of our lives, we must take appropriate perspective on this election, and accordingly must do everything we can to deliver another term to President Bush.



positions cannot waver, his judgment cannot be clouded by the interests of other nations, and he must never place politics before the security interests of the American people. Senator Kerry's hazy decision-making mired in waffling nuance cannot possibly succeed in this ever-increasingly dangerous world.

The security of the American people and nothing less than the future of free society depend on the kind of leadership shown by President Bush.

Jobs and the Economy

The current unemployment rate stands at 5.4%. This is below the average unemployment of the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's. When President Clinton ran for re-

BC Demonstrates Double Standard

While all freshmen and their respective RA's were attending the freshman convocation, the Global Justice Project did "freshman disorientation" packets underneath all of their residence doors, an action itself in direct violation of university regulations. These packets attacked thousands of students on campus, calling entire student groups racist, explosive, and oppressive. What's worse, your student body, UGBC, paid for the entire production of these packets, an outrage with grave implications. Disciplinary action within UGBC and the administration should have been taken, and shamefully nothing of substance has been done. In other words, you paid to have your friends maligned, and almost nothing has been done about it.

UGBC President Grace Simmons and Vice President Burnell Holland allocated funds to Ravi Kalwani, the executive director of social and cultural issues, for freshmen orientation purposes

Kalwani, operating against UGBC's original intent, but without Presidential oversight, used the funds for the promotion of the radical Global Justice Project's anti-American agenda. The packet described the College Republicans of BC as "filthy white rich male" students who have a "fear of foreigners, independent women" and enjoy "exploiting the environment, workers, women and people of color." The packet is strewn with obscenities, promotes radical leftist and communist movements, and implies racism on the part of Boston College police department. It even promotes books used by terrorists in communist revolutions.

The use of UGBC funds for the printing of this packet were wrong and against UGBC regulations. Kalwani, who chose to allocate these funds in this manner, continues to keep his position in UGBC and neither the administration nor UGBC have taken disciplinary action of any significance

to remedy the situation. The student body should be outraged that it's funds were used to promote this group's crazed agenda. The fact that these funds were used to vociferously attack the personal character of other groups on campus and were distributed illegally only piles onto the outrageous nature of this calamity.

The student body should be further infuriated that neither UGBC nor the administration would take any significant disciplinary action. This merely exemplifies the cruel double-standard being employed by universities across America. Diversity of opinion has taken a back seat to a liberal agenda in universities that despise differing opinions. The student body should not accept this intolerant double-standard any longer.

Apparently the desire for a welcoming community at BC does not extend to conservatives.

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The Observer

AT BOSTON COLLEGE

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Opinions

A Real Vocation Crisis

Lay Catholics Must Step Up

Ryan Connors
THE OBSERVER

While the term "vocation crisis" is often applied to priestly or religious vocations, a good case can be made that an equally severe crisis of vocation exists in the laity of the Catholic Church today. The 2004 presidential election has made this abundantly clear as the role of Catholics in political life has been harshly challenged and sadly obscured by the failures of many in this area. The truth of the unique vocation of the lay Catholic, particularly in the political process, is essential at this time both for renewal in the Church and for a renewal of the culture as a whole.

Every person who is baptized into Christ's mystical Body has a vocation to holiness. In fact, they have a vocation to be a saint. God calls every person, without exception, to strive after holiness and be a great saint for Him. In many ways this is a radical message in itself, as often people forget that their calling in life is first and foremost to be holy and radiate God's love as a saint. In addition to the universal call to holiness, or better, in order to live out that call to holiness, each Christian has a specific vocation in life—namely, the priesthood, the religious or consecrated life, or the vocation to be a lay person charged with transforming the world to Christ and bringing about His kingdom here and now. No Christian is exempt and each has a specific vocation in the Church.

Most are willing to grant that in addition to their call to holiness, priests and religious have a specific vocation in the Church. Priests (and bishops) are called to proclaim God's Word and teach the truth about God and man. Consecrated persons live out the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and are firstly signs of Heaven, reminding us to live for God alone and that soon all temporal

things shall pass away. Both priests and religious are called to make the job of the lay Catholic easier. The priestly and religious vocation is one of service to the laity in their specific vocation of transforming the world for Christ. They are to help lay Catholics sanctify their lives, calling them to deeper con-



version and holiness. The priestly and religious vocation, however, is not in the temporal order. Inaugurating God's kingdom in the world is primarily the task of the laity.

The lay vocation in the Church must be exalted and renewed in the vision of the Second Vatican Council. The laity aren't second class citizens in the Church, but in fact those on the front lines meeting head on the challenges of living the faith in the twenty-first century. A point often neglected, lay Catholics have a unique role in the Church that neither priests, bishops, nor religious have, nor can have. The conversion of temporal things, politics, business, education, and so many other realms, is the task of the laity to order toward Christ. They are to bring Christian virtue into the workplace and be Christ for those around them. This involves both living the virtues of charity, generosity, purity, diligence and humility in the workplace, but also converting the structures of society to reflect the values of the Gospel.

In many ways, it is in the political realm that this is perhaps most obvious. Lay Catholics, not primarily priests and bishops, bring the values of the Gospel into the

political realm. These values include the need to protect each and every human life, particularly the weak and vulnerable, the need to promote marriage and family as the basic cell of society, and the need to protect the poor, the immigrant, the laborer, and sick and suffering. One's belief in these values, motivated by Christian faith, should not be left on the doorstep of public life but should be taken into public life for the sake of society at large. As the Holy Father has said, Catholics do not want to impose their faith on anyone, rather, they seek to propose a vision of man and how he should be treated that makes sense to civil society at large.

What does all this mean for the election of 2004? 1) A Catholic politician cannot leave his or her faith at the doorstep, but rather must be a person of faith who seeks to promote the common good in public life motivated by what he or she believes about man in light of the Christian faith, 2) the common good includes protecting innocent human life and promoting marriage, values that are not specifically Catholic but can be known by any person of good will, 3) a Catholic voter must seek not his or her own good in voting but rather the common good which begins with protecting the lives of the weak and vulnerable, and 4) lay Catholics must see the political realm as an area where they are charged with doing work for Christ, protecting the innocent, the weak, the poor, the sick, and the unborn. This is in many ways, the "realm of the laity" who are "in the world" promoting God's kingdom. Renewal in the Church and the world depend upon lay Catholics responding now to their unique vocation to holiness and to bringing about God's kingdom. The harvest is plenty and laborers are needed. The banquet that follows, however, is out of this world.

THE OBSERVER

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The Observer is a bi-weekly student newspaper produced by members of the Boston College community. It promotes and defends traditional political and religious values both within Boston College and beyond. The Observer strongly champions the ideals of Western Civilization, the free market, limited government, personal freedom and responsibility, and adherence to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Taking seriously the values to which Boston College is committed as a Catholic university in the Western tradition, The Observer strives to promote the highest quality of journalism by providing a forum for news, opinion, and editorial at BC that otherwise would not exist. Dedicated towards advancing the intellectual life, The Observer desires an active and healthy exchange of ideas and, therefore, encourages letters and article submissions from all members of the University Community.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam -- For the Greater Glory of God

THE OBSERVER
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Hockey Preview

Continued from back page

highly touted freshman Corey Schneider providing some competition for playing time. Against New Brunswick in exhibition, the freshman class tallied eight points, while the juniors and seniors put up six and four, respectively.

The Eagles are still a definite threat all around, with a potent offense, stable defense, and a seasoned goaltender to guard the net, along with above average special teams. Conference

coaches picked BC to repeat as Hockey East champions, and BC is ranked one and third nationally in respective polls Michigan, Maine, North Dakota, and Minnesota-Duluth all round out the top five.

It may not have the bone crushing hits, fights, or skill of NHL hockey, but college hockey also lacks the arrogance of superstar players and coaches, the neutral zone trap, and, best of all, the high flung ticket prices that are still up in the nosebleeds. Friday night

games at Kelley Rink also have more camaraderie and spirit than shivering in the cold on a Saturday afternoon behind a guy with his upper body covered in maroon and gold paint and a girl who has Afashionably@ cut her Superfan shirt so that it is now a halter top with ruffles, no less. Besides, the team's good, the ice is cold, and what better way are you going to spend your time between 7:00 and 9:30 on a Friday night?

The Observer

AT BOSTON COLLEGE

Volume XVII, No. 2

Neminem Recte Faciendo Timeas

November 8, 2004

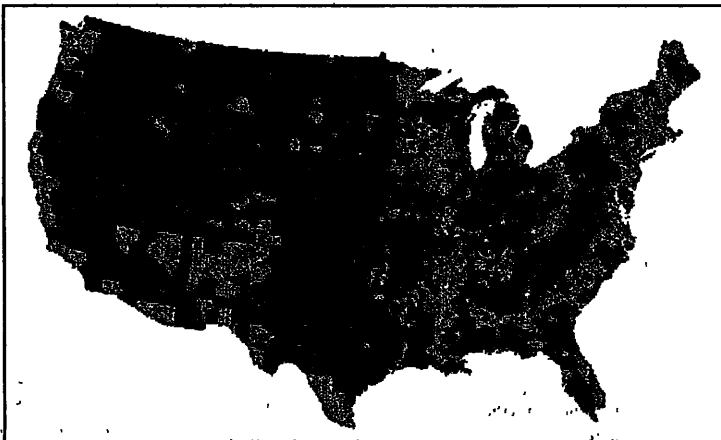
FOUR MORE YEARS!

America Remains Bush Country, Campus Liberals Cry

Bill Monigan & Chris Robinson
THE OBSERVER

Months before the re-election of George W. Bush, experts and historians all across the country were citing the 2004 Presidential Election as the most important election in this generation. And in the end, George W. Bush won the 2004 Presidential Election in a manner few could have predicted.

Aside from the considerable Republican gains in the United States House and Senate, the reelection of George W. Bush to a second term as President clearly defines the direction in which the majority of Americans want their country to move. Throughout the day on Tuesday, the most Americans in over 40 years swarmed the polls in what many predicted would be an extremely close election. Though Bush's margin of victory was by



Areas of the country won by Bush (in red), broken down by county

no means a landslide, a significant number of American voters overwhelmingly approved the way he and his party are handling the country.

The President won handily in the Electoral College, where many figured the race would be at its closest. From the outset of the evening, the polls were giv-

ing Kerry much larger leads than even Democratic strategists had predicted. Just a few hours into

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Gay Faculty Organize at BC

New Organization Sparks Controversy

Rafael Garcia
THE OBSERVER

The years-old controversy about how Boston College should respond to gay and lesbian issues was reignited two weeks ago with the formation of a Lesbian and Gay Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Association (LGFSAA). Gays and lesbians are represented at BC in numbers comparable to other schools in the area. Their efforts at formal institutional sup-

port, however, have often met opposition by those who see such moves as contrary to the Catholic mission of the university.

Several members of the steering committee of the LGFSAA spoke at length to THE OBSERVER about the new group. Prof. John McDargh from the theology department described the group as the formalization of a history at BC of casual meetings among gay and lesbian faculty, as well as their heterosexual allies in forming the LGFSAA, the faculty

did not seek any official recognition or sanction from university officials, since as McDargh explained, they needed no "financial or programmatic backing." He did, however, acknowledge informal support in founding the group from relevant offices at BC, including the Academic Vice President, University Mission and Ministry, University Counseling, and Human Resources. Most of the above offices did not return calls for comment, but Patricia DeLeeuw, Assistant Academic

Vice President for Faculties, confirmed the support of her office, headed by Prof. Joseph Appleyard, SJ. Describing the purpose of the group as like-minded faculty "coming together for mutual support," DeLeeuw saw the LGFSAA as an analog to the Black Faculty, Staff, and Administrators Association (BFSAA) and other racial support groups on campus. She remarked positively on the college-

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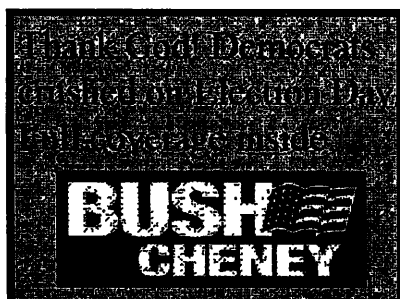
West: Race Matters, Logic Doesn't

Nick Drake
THE OBSERVER

Cornel West was greeted by an almost full Roberson Theatre by a mostly AHAANA student on Saturday afternoon, October 30. The event was sponsored by the AHAANA leadership council, Boston College student chapter of the NAACP, UGCBC, among other minority groups. Dr. West, author of several books including *Race Matters* (1997) and *Democracy Matters* (2004), Alphonse Fletcher, Jr. University Professor at Harvard University and professor of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton University, began his lecture with a seemingly innocuous laundry list of thank-yous before setting down with his more fashionable

Dr. West's self-proclaimed goal to "pressure students to scrutinize both in the classroom and on the street" was explicit from the start. He began by depicting the bleak state of the present "dark period" as the great experiment of "democracy" that is the United States. He sought to "thoroughly unnerve and unhouse" the audience as he set the premise for his lecture by relating the "secret" theory of "soul and body" as depicted in Socrates' famous Apology. The idea of the examined life as the only meaningful life was his vehicle to provoke students to intelligently cross-examine the existing "uniqueness" and "intellectual business" of nation in which we live.

Continued on page 4



News

ELECTION 2004

Republicans Dominate Senate

Goodbye Tom Daschle

Alex Noble
THE OBSERVER

Though largely overshadowed by the drama of the presidential election, November 2nd was a big day for Republicans in the Senate, too, as they expanded their razor thin 51-seat majority with four big pickups. Some of the highlights:

Much to the disappointment of college students everywhere, beer baron Pete Coors (R) was defeated by Ken Salazar (D) in a close race for an open seat in Colorado. Salazar's win was one of only two Democratic pickups, compared to six for the Republicans.

Richard Burr (R) prevailed in a tight race in North

Carolina for ex-VP candidate John Edwards' open seat. Erskine Bowles (D) garnered 47% of the vote, to Burr's 52%.

In Alaska, Lisa Murkowski (R) successfully defended her seat against popular former governor Tony Knowles (D). Murkowski had been hurt by charges of nepotism after being appointed to the Senate by her father, Frank R. Murkowski.

Jim DeMint (R) cruised to victory over Inez Tenenbaum (D) in South Carolina, chalking up another Senate seat for the GOP.

In a surprise to absolutely no one, Barack Obama (D) slaughtered Alan Keyes (R) in Illinois. Obama gathered 70% of the vote, to Mr. Keyes' paltry 27%. Hint to Alan: Ref-

erring to fellow Republican Dick Cheney's daughter as a "selfish hedonist" doesn't go over very well.

Senate minority leader Tom Daschle (D) was dealt a stunning defeat at the hands of John Thune (R). Thune, who had come close to unseating Sen. Tim Johnson in the 2002 election, capitalized on the widespread perception that the incumbent's liberal voting record in the Senate was out of step with conservative South Dakota.

In Louisiana, David Vitter (R) became the first popularly elected Republican senator in state history, picking up a formerly Democrat-held open seat. He bested two Democratic candidates in Louisiana's unique open-party election system, and fended

off a possible runoff election by gathering over 50% of the vote.

Johanny Isakson (R) easily bested Denise Majette (D) in Georgia, picking up Zell Miller's (Dem.) former seat. Miller was well known for siding with the Republicans on most issues in the Senate, and this GOP pickup weakens Georgia's reputation as one of the last bastions of Democratic power in the South.

Ohio may have been the center of attention in the presidential race, but in the Senate, it came down to another nail-biter in Florida. In a contest for an open seat that had been Democrat-held, Mel Martinez (R) triumphed over Betty Castor (D) to become the first Cuban-American elected to the United States Sen-

ate. Aiding in Martinez's win was a large Republican increase in support amongst Hispanics. Nationwide, an estimated 44% of all Hispanics voted for President Bush.

As is typical for the Senate, most of the incumbents were re-elected easily, with the sole exception of Daschle. As it now stands, the Republicans have expanded their majority from 51 to 55 seats, the Democrats salvaged 44 seats, down from 48, and Jim Jeffords, the senator from Vermont who gained notoriety after defecting from the Republican Party, holds the lone Independent seat. Finally, dashing the hopes of many Democratic Massachusetts politicians, it seems there will be no vacancy in John Kerry's seat, after all.

US Congress Breakdown

US Senate: Republicans: 55

Democrats: 44

Independent: 1

US House: Republicans: 231

Democrats: 200

Other: 4

Republicans Pick Up At Least 4 Seats in House

Conservatives Consolidate Control

Christian Zakely
THE OBSERVER

The Republican party maintained the balance of power in the House of Representatives in Tuesday's general election, winning a majority of the contested seats. With all 435 seats up for grabs, the Republicans claimed 231, comfortably surpassing the 218 total needed for House majority. Of the remaining seats, 200 went to the Democrats, one to an independent, and three still remain undecided. Republicans were also able to slightly increase their lead in the House by gaining four seats, while the Democrats lost their hold on three.

Combined with a Republican victory in the Senate elections as well as the re-election of President George W. Bush, the 2004 election in the House of Representatives contributed a vital element to the all-encompassing Republican

victory.

Bush's home state of Texas elected the largest number of Republican representatives in the entire election, 21. California came in close second with 20, although that number constitutes considerably less than half of the state's 53 House districts. Florida elected the Republican candidate in 18 of its 25 districts. Ohio and Pennsylvania also contributed 12 Republican candidates each.

Ten districts in the House of Representatives witnessed a change in party control. In the third district of Colorado, Democrats regained control when John Salazar defeated Republican candidate Greg Walcher. The twelfth district of Georgia replaced Republican incumbent Max Burns with Democratic nominee John Barrow. The eighth district of Illinois likewise ousted a Republican incumbent, Philip Crane, in favor of Democrat Melissa Bean. In

Indiana's ninth district, Republican candidate Mike Sodrel ousted Democratic incumbent Baron Hill. The fourth district of Kentucky came under Republican control when Geoff Davis defeated Nick Clooney. Significant changes also occurred in the state of Texas, where five House districts (the first, second, tenth, eleventh, and twenty-fourth) fell back under Republican control.

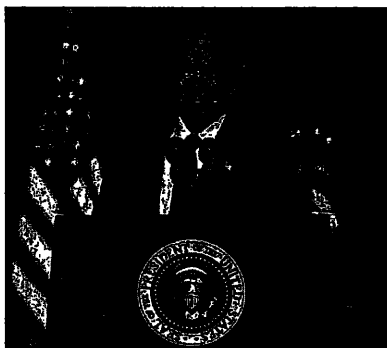
In the case of a majority of the states, an electoral college win for President Bush corresponded with a Republican victory in the majority of the House districts. Likewise a John Kerry electoral college victory usually accompanied a House victory for the Democrats. However, there were some notable exceptions. The state of Arkansas allotted its six electoral votes to President Bush but ended up with three of its four House seats being occupied by Democrats. Conversely, Connecticut provided John Kerry with seven elec-

toral votes, but the Democrats lost the race for the House, three seats to two. In Delaware, John Kerry won the three electoral votes, but Republican candidate Michael Castle claimed the only House seat. Kerry took Michigan's seventeen electoral votes, but the Democrats failed to grab nine of the fifteen seats. Kerry also was allotted four electoral votes from New Hampshire, although Republicans claimed both House seats. Despite electing Bush, North Dakota's only House seat came under Democratic occupation. Pennsylvania supported Kerry with 21 electoral votes, but supported the Republicans in the House, 12-7. South Dakota's three electoral votes went to Bush, but their lone House seat went to Democratic candidate Stephanie Herseth. The eleven electoral votes of the state of Tennessee went to Bush, but five of the nine House seats went to the Democrats. Two of the three

House seats in West Virginia went to Democrats, but the state's five electoral votes were claimed by Bush.

President George W. Bush was significantly reassured by the maintained control of the House by the Republicans. Before Kerry officially conceded on Wednesday, a cloud of doubt still hung over Ohio. With votes still being counted, the Democrats maintained the slight hope that Kerry could take Ohio. If that had happened, and if Bush had decisively won the remaining undetermined states, there existed the possibility, albeit slim, of an electoral vote tie. The tiebreaker in such cases, however, goes to the House of Representatives, over which the Republican Party still maintains majority rule. With the odds stacked against him, Kerry decided for a quick end and conceded, thus ensuring the Republican Party a clean sweep in the 2004 general election.

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Bush Wins Second Term, cont'd

Continued from front cover

the night, however, the Kerry Campaign realized that for some reason, something was wrong. The fall of Florida into the Bush column relatively early in the evening was the pivotal shift in election fortune. In a state Bush carried by just over 500 votes four years ago, the increased voter turnout pushed him hundreds of thousands of votes ahead of Kerry in critical counties like Miami-Dade.

As the night went on, the prospects of a Bush victory became more and more realistic when the Gore state of New Mexico also turned Red on the map. But it was the uncorroborated reports of a Republican Ohio that began to circulate around midnight that signaled the beginning of the end for the Kerry Campaign. By 1:00am, several websites were reporting a Bush election victory, despite the Kerry campaign's understandable request to consider the provisional ballots in Ohio.

Perhaps the story of this election is found not so much in the Electoral College as in the popular vote. In particular, what makes the popular vote so much more telling this election year are the reasons behind it. Much had been made during Bush's first term about his loss of the popular vote in the 2000 Election. The President claimed over 36 million more popular votes than his opponent and amassed what ended up being the largest tally of popular votes in history. But why? Examination of the results and many post-election polls reveal a few major contributors to the youth vote, evangelicals, and Hispanics.

The Kerry camp was banking on the youth vote to help put them over the top in several swing states, but they were let down on several accounts. Not only did the youth fail to come out in the numbers predicted, but they also did not favor the Democratic candidate as largely as anticipated. 55% of the youth preferred Kerry to Bush. But in fact, this 10 percentage point lead would have required over 30 million more youths voting in the same proportion to make up for Kerry's deficit in the popular vote. These results only served to bolster the President's victory.

But perhaps more importantly, the "Conscience of America,"

it can be said, won Bush his re-election. Of those polled in the critical state of Ohio, more than 90% of people who saw moral values as important voted for Bush, as compared to a meager 9% for Kerry. The same types of results were found when people were polled on similar issues ranging from abortion to gay marriage.

Of particular surprise to the Kerry camp was the large majority of Catholic votes that went to Bush in key counties of the swing states. True to form, no Catholic candidate who lost the Catholic vote has ever gone on to win the election. In Ohio alone, 65% of mass-going Catholics supported Bush over his opponent. In Florida, the Catholic vote helped tip the scales 57%-42% of Catholics for Bush, handing the State and one of its Senate seats to the Republicans.

In addition to this however, was the turnout among Hispanic voters. While Al Gore won the Hispanic vote with over 60% in 2000, Kerry earned the Hispanic vote by merely 53% to 44% in 2004. This was probably due to several major campaign efforts by the Bush team to target Hispanic voters. More particularly, in Florida, Republican Senator-elect Mel Martinez helped attract much of the Cuban vote in districts that typically favor Democrats more strongly.

In the end, the American people have given their approval to the Bush administration. The most important mandate is given to Bush's foreign policy, which he is most well-known for. Also, the people approve of conservative domestic policy and feel that such policies can carry this country further in the right direction. But perhaps this election, for all its importance, has demonstrated the significance of hype and overconfidence before the votes have actually been cast. The press hailed the election as paradoxically too close to call yet predestined to play into Kerry's hands. The exit polls showed a solid Kerry lead in the important swing states. However, both estimates were incorrect. Bush won enough popular votes to dispel any scent of a recount, in addition to a comfortable majority in the Electoral College.

College Democrats React to Devastating Defeat

Q & A with Justin Galacki

Lindsay Gabriél
THE OBSERVER

Among all of the factors that played into President Bush's 35 million vote victory over Senator John Kerry in last Tuesday's Presidential election, the attention paid to the youth vote was certainly unprecedented. MTV's Rock the Vote and P Diddy's "Vote or Die" campaign urged young voters to partake in the political process, and as a result, a record number of young people registered to vote in states across America.

With this in mind, The Observer interviewed Justin Galacki, President of the BC College Democrats, to gauge his reaction to the crushing defeat of his party last week:

How are you feeling about the outcome of the election? Were you surprised at all?

Obviously, we are disappointed in the outcome. We believe, especially in the last month of the campaign, that the momentum was on our side. Many College Democrats gave much of their time for the effort to defeat President Bush. Throughout Election Day we felt very confident, as we believed that high turnout would be in Senator Kerry's favor. Nevertheless, we offer our congratulations on President

Bush's victory and hope that he finally takes the opportunity to unite the country.

What do you think was the turning point of the campaign?

It is easy to play the 'woulda, coulda, shoulda' game, now, in hindsight. While it is tough to pick one point, if we had to, it would probably be the Swift Boat ads and the subsequent reaction to them. I believe that we were further down going into the debates than people originally thought. It is hard to argue that the momentum as the end belonged to Senator Kerry, so it seems that we were further down than perceived going into the debates. In the end, it was just too much ground to make up.

What do you think was the role of youth in the outcome?

The role of youth was enormous in the campaign. Our generation was extremely motivated and involved in this campaign, which was excellent to see. While each side has a slew of political operatives, it is the college student who is knocking on doors, making phone calls, and holding signs. I think it is fair to say that it would be hard for any campaign to succeed without youth involvement. Prior to the election, there were a plethora of events on campus to educate the student body on the issues this year. What do you

feel was the cumulative effect of these events?

We believe that the events this fall helped to get students motivated and excited for the campaign. The College Democrats had two major goals: Win New Hampshire for Senator Kerry and reach 1000 members. We accomplished both these goals and could not be prouder. We feel our Progressive Speaker Series, Voter outreach, and frequent campaign volunteer opportunities helped students get involved in the campaign. Senator Kerry did extraordinarily well with our demographic and we are very proud of those results.

Now that the campaign is over, what will be the focus of your club?

To put it mildly, we will not go quietly into the night. It would be ignorant to say that this election was a great success for the Democrats. But a setback is not a death sentence. We will continue to raise the public debate on this campus. We will continue to be a voice for the progressive cause. We will continue to be united and will not back down. I would like to thank all College Democrats for their tireless work over the past four years. We lost the battle, but the war will rage on.

LGFSAA, cont'd

Continued from front cover

ality and initiative shown by the faculty involved.

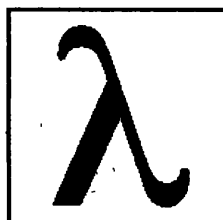
The first goal of the LGFSAA, according to McDargh, is "building a community of conversation and collegiality" to show support for gay and lesbian faculty and staff from the various parts of the university. Toward this end, he expects meetings with mixed intellectual and social purposes. The group will focus also on both intellectual issues and pedagogical concerns, to increase overall awareness of sexual minorities in the classroom. Thus far, McDargh expects his colleagues to focus on the concerns of faculty and staff rather than students, though he noted he "can imagine a number of ways [they] might work collaboratively" with student groups such as LGBC. Mike Yakisch, director of GLBT issues for UGBC and A&S '05, saw the new group as "a positive step for the university," noting that BC is often criticized (e.g. by the Princeton Review) for its perceived intolerance of gays and lesbians. Yakisch echoed the parallels to other minority employee groups drawn by DeLeeuw, and expressed his hope that the faculty could begin to address the concerns of the "invisible, permanent" members of the BC community. He saw the group as

mostly oriented toward staff, but didn't rule out collaborating with the faculty in the future.

Despite the record of divisive debates following past events such as the university recognizing the student-based Allies of Boston College, McDargh insists "I honestly do not expect serious opposition" to the group from others in

Scanlon saw the group as consistent with the Jesuit values espoused by the university. However, their fellow steering committee member, Professor Jeffrey Cohen of the Accounting Department in CSOM, was far less conciliatory when questioned on the matter. Prof. Cohen identified himself as a straight ally of the lesbian and gay members of the faculty, and stood out additionally in his minority religious affiliation of Reconstructionist Judaism. "It is patronizing," he said, "for this school to have speakers on campus who present the viewpoint of, 'love the sinner and hate the sin,' and thus implicitly denounce the sexual orientation of individuals."

In a strident departure from the measured words of his colleagues, Cohen seemed to chastise the university for even inviting Catholic speakers who teach the doctrine of "love the sinner, hate the sin." Cohen framed the group as a move in a greater civil rights struggle, invoking the activism of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a precedent for the sort of work they would do. Prof. Scanlon was far less inflammatory on the subject. "We are asking to have a seat at the table," he maintained, "not demanding an overthrow of our own community."



the university. Prof. David Scanlon from the Lynch School of Education, McDargh's colleague on the steering committee for the LGFSAA, was more prepared for conflict. He was no less insistent, however, that the fledgling group would contribute to a more positive environment for LGBT persons, noting that "controversy is an often necessary condition for growth." Both McDargh and

News

Democracy Gap at BC

Unelected Officials Run UGBC

David Bradley
THE OBSERVER

It gets half our student activities fee. It invites speakers and holds lectures. It is the UGBC, the Undergraduate Government of Boston College, representing 8,900 students. With an allocation of approximately \$471,700, it is possibly the most powerful group on campus.

The UGBC consists of 20 elected Legislative Delegates, five from each class (though four from LDs are abroad), as well as an Executive Department consisting of an elected President and Vice President and a series of unelected appointees of the President (91 are listed on the UGBC website, not including the APLAN Leadership Council).

The UGBC Executive Department is divided into several departments, chaired by a presidential appointee and containing two or three LDs, as well as other presidential appointees. The departments are Executive, Communications, Programming, Student Life, Finance, University Issues, and Social and Cultural Issues. Through these departments, the bulk of the work of the UGBC is done, including providing logistical and financial support to bring Howard Dean, Cornel West, Noam Chomsky, Alan Keyes, Michael Moore, and countless other speakers to campus.

The LDs, as a group, are given \$11,000 or 3% of the UGBC budget, whichever is larger (this year, 3% of the UGBC budget is approximately \$14,000) to use to co-sponsor or events proposed by campus groups. Last years' sponsorships included a showing of *The Vagina Monologues* (a play that includes a vignette where a middle-aged woman is celebrated for seducing a 13-year-old girl), the Dance Marathon, a trip to protest the School of America, and the "GAY line by me" campaign.

Half of the student activities fee every undergraduate must pay goes to the UGBC to be used primarily at the discretion of an elected president through standing committees dominated by his or her unelected appointees. Only 3% of the UGBC budget is directly under the auspices of the elected elected Legislative Delegates.

The other half of the student activities fee goes to the sometimes emigmatic Student Organization Funding Committee, or SOFC. The SOFC is an independent entity that allocates funds to officially recognized student

groups. SOFC members are not elected; they sign up and go through an intercol training program.

In other local institutions, including Harvard, MIT and Tufts, the elected student legislators make all of the decisions regarding the allocation of student activities fee.

Other student governments, too, do not give as much power to the president. The UGBC Constitution does. In fact, the new 2003 reorganization of the UGBC provides for no distinction between the president and his or her appointees and the elected LDs, except for the \$11,000 controlled exclusively by the LDs.

The LDs are also responsible for the impeachment of presidential appointees for "non-performance" or "misconduct," as seen in the case of Ray Kalwan's use of UGBC funds to promote stereotypes in the "Freshman Disorientation" packets distributed in September. The LD hearings brought the effectiveness of the UGBC Constitution into question.

One other "campus" issue, however, there are distinct separate and sometimes conflicting branches of student government, which help to better represent the student interest. At Harvard College, for example, the elected legislature (45 currently) divide and do the work reserved in the UGBC for either appointed members of the president or the unelected SOFC. Harvard's Undergraduate Council Finance Committee offers grants to student groups on a rolling basis, rather than at set locations times as the BC SOFC requires. The Campus Life Committee, made entirely from elected council members, provides for entertainment such as concerts, barbecues, dances, and movie nights, as the UGBC programming department, with 14 of the 17 members not elected, does.

Looking at the constitutions of other local schools, similar patterns exist: elected members of the student government make the decisions, appointed positions are merely advisory, and a vote of elected students is necessary. Furthermore, any expenditure of student activities fees are made by elected student representatives, not students who merely signed up and were approved by the funding committee, as is the case with the SOFC.

For whatever reason, the form of the UGBC and SOFC does not embrace popular democracy as much as other prestigious area schools do.

Cornel West, cont'd

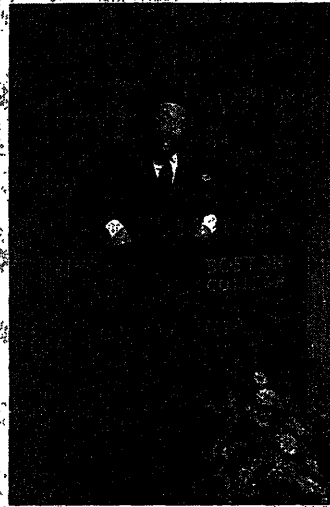
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West passionately encouraged his audience to "look at the world through the lens of those who wrestle with death, or the eyes of the meek of which Jesus spoke in His Sermon on the Mount. Through those eyes, West purported, they could see the prejudices of race (specifically racism conducted by whites toward blacks), sex, class, sexual orientation, and the "imperialist tendencies of people living in the 'most powerful empire' in the world." He later related the United States and its current leadership to that of ancient Rome, who, by West's accounts, used the cross as a symbol of Roman support over the Jews and the subjugation of a people.

West progressed to his criticisms of modern social and political ideals mainly through his discrediting of "free-market fundamentalism," or as he put it, "corporate greed." As a member and honorary chair of the Democratic Socialists of America, his economic policy is one of more evenly distributed wealth and equality of results rather than opportunity. These principles were further elaborated upon in a response to a question concerning recent remarks by actor and comedian Bill Cosby concerning the self-deploring plight of lower-class black Americans. West censured these comments sharply, calling them "unsympathetic and lacking in understanding of what he believed is a prejudiced system." West repeatedly cited historical events from Civil Rights struggle as evidence for his perception of American

social prejudices and the current state of race relations. "Continually mentioning questionable statistics regarding economic disparities among races and sexes," West painted a dark picture of the American free-trade capitalist system that has made America flourish for centuries.

Despite the Doctor's seemingly fatalistic perspective, he did attempt to offer a solution. West's idea of self-inspection was his means of encouraging blacks to overcome the "social" and "civic" deaths they have suffered as a result of slavery and racial brutality in America. He pushed blacks to fight racial violence, or as he coined it, "American terrorism," with love and justice. He called this approach "true comic hope," an attitude between optimism and defeatism, which he believes is necessary for black Americans to "equalize." While he is critical of middle-class blacks who characterize lower-class blacks for not working hard enough to succeed, he made it clear that he understands that victims are never completely innocent and must take responsibility.



Dr. Cornel West of Princeton speaks at BC. Photo Courtesy of Nick Lake.

West took the topic of race relations further as he began to criticize the current administration for the way they have handled terrorism abroad. He noted the sudden post-9/11 change that occurred when all Americans were scrutinized by a group that simply hated them for who they were, racelessly and shamelessly. But West declared, "it is not right for Bush's administration to react vengefully for the suppression of a nation." He did not make it clear how he believed foreign policy concerning terrorism should actually be approached.

Why Bother to Have a Church at All?

Father Himes Speaks

Christopher Hopkins
THE OBSERVER

Some people may make the answer to this question "not granted," but the true explanation was revealed at my Church in the 21st Century sponsored lecture on Tuesday, October 19th. As the next to last lecture in the "Adventures in Faith Series," Rev. Michael Himes, professor of Theology at Boston College, explained the benefits and advantages of the Church. He began the lecture by describing how Americans say they are immensely interested in spirituality, but aren't attached to any religious group or community. These people regard the Church as merely a support group that is not necessary for spiritual life. Rev. Himes, however, argued against this point and supported his claim that the Church is necessary for spiritual growth.



The question discussed in the lecture, "Why the Church?" was given two answers. The first answer began with a quotation from Luke 3:1-2, which says "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and

Herod was ruler of Galilee, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. Although appearing as a lengthy introduction, it is an important synthesis to the phrase, "Once

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News/Opinions

Father Himes, cont'd

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upon a time. "It does not tell of a great myth but rather of particular events, people, and places. This expresses why the Gospel is the 'good news' since reporters and writers are necessary to deliver the news to others. Since before biblical times, there has always been a community of writers forming an institution. Without the Church, there would be no community that would teach and learn about the incarnation of the Lord. Combining all these points, the first reason for having the Church is that it is our direct link with the historical event of the incarnation."

For the second answer, Rev. Himes made reference to Nietzsche's *Thus Spake Zarathustra* and Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*. In his book, Nietzsche shows how God is dead in a world of compulsion where the need to attend to other beings is only a hobby. Dostoyevsky's book tells of "the women who had lost faith" and who bit by bit began not to believe in God. The worst thing that can happen to a person is the utter total loss of having a purpose for existence. "The

woman in the story was led to an experience of God after achieving the great and terrible undertaking of loving the people around her."

Both authors realize that the way one speaks of God is a result of loving other beings. These two examples provide the basis for Rev. Himes' second important reason for the Church: "You cannot believe, speak of or speak to God meaningfully without loving one's neighbor."

In discussing the Catholic Church, Rev. Himes mentioned how the Church is the community calling to be "agapic," giving to another and loving, spiritually and selflessly. People need a community, even if it knows that it lacks compassion. A community of "agapic" vocation is vital to talk about God. As the witnesses of the biblical events passed the good news to others for many generations, the institution that was formed from this became the Church. The two reasons for the Church's existence is satisfied as the Church continues to teach us the word that we would never have known otherwise. He also commented

on the incarnation, the doctrine of the Trinity, the "Word made flesh," and an emphasis on "God is love." The final point of this lecture was that the Church is an essential institution that relays the good news of the Gospel to all who seek it.

This lecture explored different ways of thinking about the Church and institutions. In this, the lecture achieved an "adventure in faith," as its intended Rev. Himes spoke most eloquently and effectively in answering the title of this article.

"Why Bother to Have a Church at All?" There were a good number of undergraduate students present at the lecture who asked excellent questions of the experienced theologian. For devout Christians, they heard about the institution that has taught them the word since birth. For those who consider themselves Christian, they were shown how the Church can teach them to love one another. For non-Christian, they now are more able to recognize the divine message for which the Church stands.

Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

This letter is in response to Bill Monigan's editorial, "Berry the Morality Slaver." Monigan seemed to forget, or perhaps refused to acknowledge, one thing while writing this column: the importance of separating church and state. This shouldn't be new to him or to anyone. The idea of keeping religion out of government affairs is something that this country was founded on, and it carries with it the fact that no president should allow his religious beliefs to affect his governing the United States.

It could then be argued that with religion comes morality, and that a Catholic president who supports the two issues Monigan used as examples (abortion and gay marriage) is therefore immoral. Is that to say, then, that non-religious people have no morals? Do religion and morality always go hand in hand? Many religions have certain moral codes, most of which are incredible. It is possible, however, to have morals and to be a good, moral person (whatever one's definition of that is) without religion. Morality has become

a societal construct that anyone, whether she believes in a god or gods or no god, can embrace. Judeo-Christian morals are not the only path to possessing a moral code—and a Catholic priest introduced me to that idea years ago in class. It is therefore possible for a Catholic president to keep his religious beliefs out of the White House and still effectively govern this country, which is populated by people of innumerable religions and dogmas.

The United States does not operate under a theocracy. Judeo-Christian doctrine—or any specific religious doctrine—has no place in the White House. The government's chief responsibility is to expand the rights of the population as much as possible. I think everyone is agreed on this. Let religious doctrine remain a separate entity; let it guide those who follow it, not the entire United States of America.

Sincerely,

Jackie Arko
AAS '05

Edited for space by The Observer

Tips for Democrats

Going from Pathetic to Patriotic

Chris Pizzio
THE OBSERVER

Well, it's over. The election of 2004 has concluded, with conservative America as the clear victor. Despite the animus and disgust felt for President Bush and Republicans from all corners of blue state America, a strong national defense, family values, and smaller government won the day. With this in mind, I thought to myself, where did the Democrats go wrong? Why were they unable to ride the strongest winds of anti-incumbency since the post-Nixon era to success last week?

As a representative of red state America who has the fortune of temporarily residing behind enemy lines here in Kerry/Kennedy land, I think some suggestions might be in order. Let's understand each other; I am not hoping for the resurgence of the Democratic Party (in fact, nothing would ice this conservative victory cake more than its complete and utter implosion) but I am concerned that this once powerful force for the defense of American cultural values and

worthy adversary in the battle for political dominance might be on the road to irrelevance.

Accordingly, I have listed some honest recommendations that if taken seriously, might save this once-proud party.

Get rid of Howard Dean, John Kerry, Hillary Clinton, Michael Moore, and Ted Kennedy.

So long as these people are associated with the Democratic Party, the Republicans will be able to conduct a summary slaughter of Democratic candidates in the south, much of the Midwest, and the entire plains and mountain west regions. If the Democrats bet on people like Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana, Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas, Ben Nelson of Nebraska and other moderates in the party as their national figures, they wouldn't be seen as they are now—a party that wants to have gay marriages on the capitol steps and perform abortions in the Rose Garden. That is certainly at minimum, an unfair characterization of the Democrats, but it is the perception held by many

Americans.

Stop allowing far-left interest groups define your policy positions.

If NARAL, the AFL-CIO, and the ACLU continue to spout the ideological rhetoric that finds its way into the Democratic Party platform, the party will eventually be doomed to existence only in places like the Cambridge and the East Village. In this scenario, the party is in a tough situation, mainly because much of its base agrees with the positions of these organizations. They are in support of abortion on demand, opposed to free trade, and would like to see the abolition of any religious reference from government institutions. The country on the whole, however, is not sympathetic to these ideas. While they may not reject them outright, these are not values found in the hearts of everyday Americans.

The Democratic Party has a difficult case to make (as I said it) on issues ranging from social justice to civil liberties. If they would re-tool their message in a way that wraps the issue in the same

morally imperative language with which the Republican have bludgeoned Democratic candidates nationwide, they may be able to win over many groups of voters that have trended away from them over the past decade (i.e. Catholics). However, so long as these left-wing interest groups are allowed to control the direction of the party, all hope is lost.

Organize around a commonly shared set of objectives and a single direction for the future of America.

For all intents and purposes, the Democratic Party is nothing more than an association of single-issue organizations who work together on behalf of candidates who will grant them a seat at the decision-making table. Far from united on anything other than a desire to increase the size of government, the Democratic Party has been floundering over the past few years because of its failure to energize many of its supporters on issues beyond the one that originally brought them into the party fold. It is not uncommon to find people who

believe in abortion rights, or because they want to expand affirmative action programs. The Republican Party, on the other hand, has a base that is united behind more than just single issues, but on a range of concerns that blend together. A desire for smaller government, freedom of religion, the right to life, lower taxes, a strong defense, an aggressive foreign policy, and other issues tend to blend in the supporters of the Republican Party. Pre-election polling showed that over 90% of Republicans were passionate about their candidate, while only about 50% of Democrats fell into this category.

While many of the criticisms I have listed here can be leveled against the Republican party as well, the Democrats would do well to take the time between now and 2008 not to find candidates that will fall within the traditional Democratic mold, but to redefine themselves in a way that can be acceptable to the broad base of American voters. Only then can they, as Zell Miller has said, become a national party once again.

Features

Puppets, Panthers, and Terrorists: Oh My!

Haley Mancini Reviews Team America: World Police

Haley Mancini
THE OBSERVER

Matt Stone and Trey Parker (of South Park fame), in their new release, *Team America: World Police*, depict a team of heroic marionettes designated to protect the world from WMD, warring terrorists working under a power-crazed North Korean dictator.

Although they often inflict more damage than the terrorists in their pursuit of world safety, they are generally admired until the dreaded Hollywood actors from the Film Actors Guild (and the acronym is not so subtly implied) join together against the Team. In the end, while torrid puppet-love causes dissension amongst the group, the members of Team America are able to pull themselves together and defeat both the North Korean dictator and, in a hilarious theme song reminiscent of *Top Gun*,

This movie is a sure bet for people from both sides of the political spectrum. Both Republicans and Democrats will find their principles affirmed and ridiculed, thus making this a refreshing film for all those frustrated by the numerous conflict surrounding this year's election.

Although they proclaim themselves to be keeping the world safe from the threat of terrorists and mass destruction, they decimate the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre while chasing a Middle Eastern Jihad fighter with a briefcase. Meanwhile, flag-waving Americans are portrayed as stupid, arrogant, and aggressive with world domination in mind rather than world safety.

Two of the more hilarious objects within the crude tongue-in-cheek comedy of Stone and Parker are Michael Moore and the stars of Hollywood. Playing on Moore's description of America in society as stupid, fat, loud and lazy, they use his own comments against him, portraying him as

what else—but an ignorant, fat, loud man covered in his own filth and holding a hot dog in each hand. Eventually, in an effort to stop the actions of Team America, who he claims to be the true ter-



rorists, marionette Moore launches his own Jihad by means of a suicide bombing at the Team's headquarters.

The members of the Film Actors Guild represent the

stereotypical under educated and overt-political Hollywood actor. Many of these successful actors have barely more than a high school education and are adept at averting the taxes that they so readily vote for. In a fabulous anti-technological throw down, these actors are taken out one by one culminating in the explosion of Alec Baldwin's head—as seen from five different angles.

Finally, the creators of South Park are not afraid to laugh at themselves and their marionette actors. The fight scenes consist of wooden dolls running into each other until puppet innards (some form of red goo) ooze over the floor. Taking this further, an uncensored, mature moment between two marionettes occurs over the span of a hilarious and gratuitous minute. Why? Because they can, that's why. Friendly, Barbie-doll marionettes (lacking distinguishing physical features) can maintain carnal contact for a good length of time without entering the realm of NC-17. Possibly the

funniest moment, however, occurs when one of the teammates are trapped in a cage and the panthers are released upon them. These "panthers" are, in fact, two black house cats chasing after the puppets to the sound of deeply-toned loars. Delightful!

Overall, if you are willing to laugh at yourself and can sustain the sometimes outrageous and oftentimes crude humor that is a result of Parker and Stone, this is a great movie. In this strange time for our nation where we all try to separate the "good guys" from the "bad guys," it is nice to see a film where there really are no clear definitions of either. Each side has its good and its bad and it is just a matter of picking your poison. However, there is one message that rises over the mockery found in *Team America: World Police*, no matter the circumstance, we should always be proud and grateful to be American.

Music That Can Save

The Return of the Features Section

Steve Broadhead
THE OBSERVER

Alright kiddies, the Features Section Lives! Sorry for the hiatus, but we are back and better than ever (with me as editor, naturally). I have assembled a crack team of clever little hipsters to cover the going-on of the Feature World, so it will hopefully be a good year as I try to engrain deadline rules into their heads. Next time, I promise, we will try to bring you more coverage, but for now: Strength!

Unfortunately, this column is not long enough to allow me to catch you up on everything that we've missed over the past few months, so instead I will talk about some of the more memorable music moments that you may have missed. I suppose we will begin with the more recent stuff, a few good concerts already have come to Boston this school year (Death Cab, Ben Lee, Pinback, etc.) but I will only talk about one of the more recent ones: *The Good Life*. Easily the best album of the summer came with their sophomore release, *Album of the Year*.

The seemingly pompous title for the second release from this Nebraska band comes complete with all the self-

critical imagery and twists of irony you have come to expect from Tim Kasher (the front of Cursive). In his alter-ego incarnation as The Good Life, Kasher tones down his snide, melodic acoustic pop mixed with large range of vocal emoting. A little difficult to get used to on the first spin, but this album only gets better with play.

Kasher's predictable charts the ups and downs in new relationships as they come and go in some of the most beautiful songs of the year. With the aid of vocals from former bandmate John Lee, "Inmates" is easily the highlight on the album. Combining moody pop melodies with affronting and difficult layered lyrics, Kasher takes his first attempt at an epic. Other songs like "Lovers Need Lawyers" and "Notes in His Pockets" succeed in emitting moods for every person who has ever been in love and questioned their own worthiness.

Naturally, a great album warrants a great show, and a few weeks ago, Kasher and Co. came to Boston as The Good Life at the Paradise Rock Club. A great, highly-explosive show complete with Kasher demonstrating his vocal range from sonorous to screaming unpressed, the smallish crowd in attendance while playing speed-rock versions of

many of their greatest hits. Impressive as ever, Kasher continues to prove his gift for songwriting and performance improves with maturity.

Tim took the stage complete with his increasingly long hair (he vowed some time ago not to cut it until he gets his life in order) and took the mic like a man possessed. Increasingly, it seems as though his preferred method for therapy is singing. He self-consciously puts his struggles with life, girls and alcoholism into music as a means of exorcism.

He stands in front of the crowd seemingly bearing his soul for cabs, but you cannot but wonder how much of this is a false facade—especially when he acknowledges his work is for entertainment only, with lyrics like "Yeah I've got a sports record, but I've been renewed." In spite of this, there is an apparent genuine degree of honesty that compels you to follow along with him down the dark stairwell of depression, love and loss while forcing you to face his problems as your own.

On the other side of the spectrum, Zach Rogue, too, looks to music for salvation, although for differing reasons. Late in August I went to see AC Newman (of the New Pornographers fame) at the Middle

East. As a fan of Newman and having heard positive reviews for Rogue Wave, I headed out to Cambridge and TT the Bear.

Everyone in the place stood outwardly impressed by the live set of the opener, Rogue Wave. The band was truly captivating. They stood on stage, appeared genuinely happy to be performing, and the audience reciprocated the respect.

During Newman's set, I sat down in a quiet(ish) corner of the bar with Zach and we talked for about an hour on everything from music to life. Superficially, music may seem distant from the stress of the real world, but for Zach, there is no great dichotomy between the two. For him, as with any band trying to make it in an industry harder to break into than a bank, music has become his life—and that is no selling concept.

As we talked, he related his whole story from start to finish on how he came to be where he is now. When he was laid off by a dot-commer, he set off to New York with little more than an inkling of an album in his mind and a desperate need for change. In a few marathon sessions, he left New York with an album worth of material that he brought back to Oakland.

Even if he made far more money in his former pro-

fession, he hated his job. "Now, Zach said, 'I'm the poorest, but the happiest, I have ever been.' In this spirit, he decided that he would so devote himself to the music that a name change was warranted and Zach Schwartz became Zach Rogue.

At times their new release, *Out of the Shadow*, has sparks of moody pop genius vis-à-vis the likes of Rubyhorse, but at others it seems to be a lackluster album on the verge of melting into pop obscurity. Nevertheless, an amazing performance from a group of genuinely happy performers may prove the key to success. A follow-up, complete with their onstage energy will hopefully prove more impressive than their debut but we have no choice but to wait.

Anyway, I will close it here and leave you to reflect on how music can save. Both of these artists draw energy from their art in probably unhealthy amounts, yet they use it in varying shades that is clearly evident in their performances. Tim Kasher purifies his emotions out into the music he creates, while Zach Rogue draws from the music the inspiration to continue doing what he loves. In either case, you cannot but respect their enthusiasm.

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Opinions

Getting What You Want What Other Parties Have to Offer

Jeff Jozefski
THE OBSERVER

Well, the Presidential election is over. And now, we've got to live with the choice we made, because now the power has been transferred from the voters to one man.

I'll now say that I didn't vote for President Bush. I supported him over John Kerry and still do, but he simply wasn't my favorite candidate. I voted for my "feel-good" candidate of this election — Michael Peroutka. Yeah, I didn't know about him either until I saw him on C-SPAN a month ago. (Isn't that what C-SPAN is for? Turning it on randomly and seeing someone talking that oddly comes up in class a couple days after?)

So this guy is the "candidate from the Constitution Party." He's said that a political party advocating a government that follows its own Constitution isn't even on the ballot in all the states, much less being immediately recognizable. Peroutka has been campaigning for over a year in all corners of the country to return the United States to the Constitutional Republic it was designed to be. The three themes of the Peroutka 2004 campaign were Honor God, Defend the Family, and Restore the Republic.

Michael Peroutka seems to be the only Presidential candidate that has given the original founding documents a good read-through. Our conscience tells us all that the infringement on Americans' right to worship God in the name of separation of church and state is wrong. Well, it turns out that not once does the term "separation of church and state" appear in the American Constitution. However, the Declaration of Independence does acknowledge that all our natural rights come from God: "they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." This wasn't a simple slip of the pen, either George Washington said, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor."

This man was the chairman of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Although we all have the right to believe what we wish, this "separation of church and state" doesn't mean "separation of God and state." The courts have decided to take down the Tenth Commandment from school rooms and court houses, but the Constitution says this should only occur through a vote by a state or federal legislative body can do it. There is no basis in the Constitution for the Supreme Court to re-



Constitution Party Candidate
Michael Peroutka

move the Ten Commandments. The Peroutka campaign lists this first among their campaign themes.

The Constitution Party's "Defending the Family" theme has two pillars: first is the protection of the sanctity of marriage through the state legislatures — NOT a federal amendment. The Constitution does not give the federal government the ability to make law on marriage of civil unions. This plan allows us to win twofold: ensuring the federal government is not overstepping its boundaries and protecting marriage at the same time! Also, Peroutka is adamant about stopping the massacre of the unborn by cutting off all federal funding for the practice of abortion while advocating a complete ban on it, in the same fashion as he would for the gay marriage ban through the state legislatures, who solely have the power to rule on the issue.

Finally, Peroutka would restore our republic by drawing back the government from the places that it has overstepped its boundaries. He would not declare a war on terrorism, because terrorism is a tactic used by extremist factions, not a faction in itself, and quite simply, the President has no right to declare war on anything I don't remember Congress passing any declaration of war. He would not create a socialist-inspired dependence on the state for necessities by creating national health care. The purpose of government is not to redistribute your wealth but to protect your rights and properties.

So although Peroutka didn't win he puts a half smile on your face you sigh while thinking of America as a simple sovereign republic as it was meant to be. Make in '08, huh? No. Someone like Peroutka will obviously never win the Presidency because of his third-party status.

But I bet he could win a congress seat, and therein lies our victory. If all Congress seats with this who follow our Constitution seems much easier and more effective than hoping for a President who plays by the rules. Remember that Congress can always trump the President's power. Do you know who your Congressman is?

Bring Back Limited Government A New Opportunity for the Republican Party

Matthew McGarry
THE OBSERVER

The election is over and George W. Bush has won another four years in office. However, the election results told another story, as well. The election was a close one, and America was split between "red" and "blue" states, with each faction wielding almost equal amounts of electoral votes. After the second close election in four years, conservatives must realize that the next election could bring a liberal Democrat to the White House.

To prepare for such a scenario requires a hard look at the present role of the federal government. Conservatives must not be tempted to use the federal government as an ideological bludgeon. Rather, this Republican administration would do well to bring the government back to its Constitutional roots. They must adhere strictly to the Constitution because every departure sets a precedent that the other side can use. Loose constructionist law is the foundation of liberal government. By adhering to the law of the Constitution, conservatives can have an objective standard to check the power of their opponents.

This strict constructionist view means drastically reducing the size and scope of the federal government. It means cutting federal spending and doing away with unnecessary executive departments. Cut the Federal Income Tax to give the American people some of their money back. Cut down federal programs like trees in the rainforest. Put an end to wealth redistribution on the Federal level. Emphasize the rights of states, confining the role of the

national government to the enumerated powers. Don't leave extra ammo lying around for the liberals to use against conservative interests when they finally take the fort.

Liberals should be encouraged to try their ideas on the more democratic state level. This way, conservative states can avoid having liberal designs forced upon them. Likewise, liberal states should be able to govern themselves without having conservative ideologies forced upon them by the feds. While this may not be good for the minorities in these states, such is the cost of limited self-government. Things that are good for some states are not necessarily good for others. Massachusetts and Texas need not live under the exact same laws. In fact, it is probably better that they do not. The Founding Fathers understood this and allowed states to retain sovereignty over all powers not specifically delegated to the federal government. This balance of power is the very essence of American Federalism.

However, the freedom of states to succeed under their own authority is also the freedom to fail. It is inconsistent to say that states are free to exercise their rights, but only to do the right thing. Then, as soon as states go wrong, the federal government is called in to beat them into submission. This is the formula that seems to be in practice today.

The key to reversing this formula is in the appointment of federal judges. Bush must keep his promise to appoint strict constructionists to the bench. Liberal interpretations of the Constitution gave birth to the powerful centralized national government seen today. The Supreme Court has made

a hobby out of inventing fantastic new rights for the federal government to enforce. By interpreting the Constitution as it is written, a lot of power can be taken away from the federal government and given back to the states.

Adam Specter, expected to become the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, recently cautioned the President about nominating any justices who would want to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. He also stated that he would look for justices who would interpret the Constitution reflecting the values of the people. Specter seems to be indicating that he would oppose the appointment of strict constructionists. After all, he was a key figure in rejecting Reagan's nomination of strict constructionist Robert Bork to the Supreme Court. If George W. Bush is to keep his election promise of appointing only strict constructionists, he must be willing to challenge a Republican Senator.

The Republican Party is faced with a rare opportunity. They have control of both houses of Congress, and their presidential candidate won a majority of the popular vote. If the Republicans don't pursue the conservative agenda they've always touted, they'll successfully alienate their conservative base. It's now or never. The can no longer claim that the Democrats are getting in their way. If anything is to get accomplished, people like Senator Specter must be put in their places and real conservative values have to take hold within the party. If Republicans refuse this opportunity, real conservatives will be forced to turn elsewhere.

Despite Media's Efforts, Bush Still Wins Bias More Apparent than Ever in 2004 Election

Tim Nasti
THE OBSERVER

The news media claims to be an independent source from which people can obtain their information. The power they wield is enormous and shapes public opinion immensely, and during an election year, it becomes even more important. Unfortunately, the media is not always independent and can exhibit flagrant bias.

Over the past few weeks, various independent news sources have let their bias spill into their news coverage. The first and most blatant example occurred when *The New York Times* reported that there were explosives missing from munitions dumps in Iraq. They implied that the Bush administration's incompetence was to

blame for this. The timing of this story was clearly suspect, appearing within eight days of the election. First, this purported incident supposedly took place eighteen months ago. Second, numerous reports have cast serious doubts whether these explosives were relocated before or during the war.



Undoubtedly, *The New York Times* stood by their bias.

In another instance, CBS deliberately attempted to defame the president. Dan Rather "broke" a story

regarding Bush's national guard service. On September 8th, Rather began his CBS Evening News by reporting that he had four exclusive memos indicating that Lt. George W. Bush failed to get a physical exam. These same documents subsequently appeared on "60 Minutes" that same night.

The following day, the print media jumped all over this story. A few days later, however, when it came to light that these documents were of doubtful authenticity, they cited independent analysis discrediting the documents. In addition, Jerry Killian, Bush's commander-in-chief, said that his late husband kept no such records and his son said that he doubted that his dad had signed such papers.

Continued on the next page

Opinions

Parody: Close Your Mouth, Open Your Wallet

A "Common Sense" Solution to Social Inequality

John Kanca
THE OBSERVER

Among the varterred conversations and political discussions at Boston College, the question of the gap between the wealthy and the poor is perhaps one of the most unusual topics revealed only in greater discussions of taxes, the economy and equity. Yet for some students this seems to be a rather contentious issue, especially those on the far left who see it as a smiling example of injustice in the United States, one that ought to be corrected.

Fortunately with a bit of creative planning, and just enough page space for this article, I have concocted a simple yet effective plan for a redistribution of resources to make life more equitable for all — the College Fund Redistribution Act (CFRA). Under this plan, students at Boston College can take the roughly \$40,000 in tuition and housing costs, and

instead of using it to fund their education, use it to subsidize a family at an income level below the poverty line. This way, said students will have the opportunity to single handedly help reduce the income gap between the wealthy and the poor.

Next fall, there will be one basis to this plan. I'm not sure, — my contribution doesn't make that much of a difference.

It's true, you are just one person. But it takes exactly one person to start making that difference, and if enough people do, it just might catch on. Eventually there could be scores of college students sacrificing their education for the sake of their fellow man. It's the American way.

Kindergarten plan, I won't be able to afford a 20th college.

That would likely be true for many of the people who follow through with this plan. A college education does have tremendous value, but you must remember that your acceptance at Bos-

ton College indicates tremendous advantages that undoubtedly came to you on the backs of the disadvantaged and oppressed — this is the least you can do. Learn to be happy with what you have or work that much harder, there's no reason that you can't be successful even if you don't have that college diploma.

I am afraid to pay for college, and still follow your instructions. However, this would probably not be a good idea for a poor person, as they would not be able to afford it.

If you can afford to do both, chances are that you are very wealthy. Given this, you probably gained your financial position at the expense of an number of disadvantaged groups. Therefore, your participation in the plan is mandatory. You do have the option of attending Boston College after paying for one's education, or, if you so choose, you can subsidize two poor families.

This isn't a real plan, and you don't really mean what you say.



The Observer helping resolve the education gap one state at a time.

You're just calling people out on what you perceive to be their hypocrisy, then saying that the gap between them and the poor is too great but they don't do anything about it.

True. There comes a point when one can only make so much preaching from a college student about the evils of the up-

per class and how they are gaining at everyone else's expense before voicing becomes unwelcome. Let's avoid the mess and give students an opportunity to put their money where their mouths are.

Catholics in Politics, One More Time

Ryan Connors
THE OBSERVER

November 2nd may have ended the confusion about who will be the next president, but it did not end the confusion about the obligations of Catholics in the political process. I imagine that the debate on this topic will come to an end with the election. I thought I would offer some final reflections about Catholics in political life.

The first and most obvious observation is that this discussion really should not end on Election Day. While it is unlikely that the secular press will continue to cover the debates of how Catholics should engage the political realm, Catholics themselves should continue to discuss these issues, if they are to understand fully the message of the second Vatican Council. Vatican II is the most important event for the Church in centuries, and it speaks clearly to Catholicly people. The Council insists that lay Catholics are called to transform

the world for Christ and to bring about His kingdom here and now. The unique vocation of lay Catholics is bringing their faith into the world where they live and to work and seek to promote Christian virtue in their particular fields. In politics, that means lay Catholics must take what they have seen and heard — that is, what they know about the dignity of man, the importance of marriage for a virtuous society and the desire to promote peace and justice for the weak and suffering — into the political realm. Catholics may not leave their faith at the doorstep of public life; rather, they must engage the world just as the great saints have done throughout the Church's history.

While all Catholics are called to engage the political realm, an important distinction should be made between the obligations of politicians and those of Catholic voters. These distinct obligations have been sadly confused in recent months, and this has proved disastrous for anyone trying to understand Catholic teaching on these matters. In regard to Catho-

lic politicians, clear obligations certainly apply.

Catholic politicians may not support the destruction of innocent life. Abortion, human cloning, destructive research on the human embryo, and euthanasia are intrinsic evils which Catholics politicians, and in fact, all people, have an obligation to oppose. The equating of other partnerships with traditional marriage is also a great evil that will have disastrous effects on society. Similarly, Catholics and all who understand the importance of marriage must oppose efforts to dismantle the distinct place rightly given to the life-giving union of marriage. Finally, while Catholic politicians may disagree concerning economic policy, but their standard must include a deep concern for the poor and vulnerable. Likewise, Catholics may disagree about a better particular way is just and prudent, but all must use the strict just-war criteria that admit the possibility of a just war but seek peace in a true and authentic way. Issues of economics and the use of force do not have absolute answers

(in the way abortion does, for example), but nonetheless Catholic politicians have an obligation to adopt policies that reflect their Christian commitment to peace and justice, particularly for the suffering.

The obligations of politicians are rightly distinguished from those of Catholic voters. While it is true that they both consider many of the same issues, they do so in different ways. For example, there is no way a Catholic politician may be pro-choice. He or she may not support abortion, but must work to protect the lives of the unborn. A Catholic voter likewise must have the utmost concern for the unborn, but may in particular cases vote for a candidate who supports abortion. A good example would be a case where one believed a vote for a pro-abortion politician would actually help the plight of the unborn. A pro-abortion candidate who would nonetheless vote to confirm pro-life judges because he or she shared the political party of the President, may actually do more for the unborn than someone of another political party.

The point is that good people in conscience may disagree about whom, in the end, to vote for because they are matters of prudence. The question of whether a politician will work to protect the unborn on the other hand is not a matter of prudence but of absolute principle.

A Catholic voter must vote for that candidate who will do more for the common good. The common good must begin with recognizing the right to life of all people, particularly the innocent and voiceless. The particular question has one cast: one vote does not have a simple answer. On the other hand, one must ask whether one's pattern of voting reflects a commitment to the end: the great killing of 44 million children since 1973. In any event, these questions must continue to be asked even through the election of 2004 has passed. While the election may have ended, the need for Catholics to be engaged in public life and to work for the weak and vulnerable certainly has not. In fact, this invitation to get to work has just begun.

Media Bias, cont'd

Continued from previous page

In the turmoil regarding Ohio this election, it's important to at least note which media outlets called the state for Bush. Fox News was the first to call it for George Bush. NBC followed, with CNN and CBS abstaining. However, CNN and CBS called Pennsylvania for Kerry early in the evening, even though Kerry won Pennsylvania by a lesser margin than Bush won Ohio. While it could be just coincidence, could it instead be just another in a long line of instances of left wing media bias? We must debate

the means by which Americans receive their information. While no person can be completely trusted to totally keep their opinion in check, we can demand that excessive slant come to an end.

In regards to the attack ads of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, the media's assault was unprecedented. Never before had America's media assailed such a group of distinguished American heroes. According to the watchdog group, Media Research, ABC, CBS, and NBC devoted 75 stories to questioning George Bush's mili-

tary record, and over 9 to the charges that Kennedy misled his war record. For the most part, the mainstream media claimed these heroes as partisan assets for the Bush camp.

CBS, the New York Times, and other media outlets made a valiant effort to disrupt the reelection campaign of George W. Bush. Thankfully, their efforts have failed. One must not underestimate the sharp perceptiveness of the American people. They sift right through the spin and bias.

When numerous exit polls came pouring in on Election Day, one must wonder how much members of the media, such as CNN's Judy Woodruff were inwardly celebrating. When the actual results were made known, however, many looked as if they wanted to cry.

Even at Boston College, liberals can be heard bemoaning Fox News and its right wing bias. First of all, they are just bitter that Fox News, with its slightly conservative voice, is America's number one cable news

network. Liberals have virtually even other news network and newspaper in the nation on their side. If left wing activists care so much about letting everyone's voice be heard, then why can they not allow Conservatives to have at least some voice? Yes, there is a liberal media bias in America, and to see it all one need to do is flip through the New York Times or watch Dan Rather on the CBS Evening News.

Opinion

A Farewell to Catholicism?

The Fate of Catholicism at BC

Jon Kendall
The Observer

Sometimes I wonder if the BC administration has ever read Pope John Paul II's document, *Ea Corde Luceat*, an apostolic constitution on Catholic universities that outlines the duties and mission of the Catholic university. Considering the fact that Boston College is a "Catholic" university, one would think it would respect the words and requests of the Holy Father, but it seems as though our administration thinks it knows better than His Holiness.

I was under the impression that when I applied to a Catholic university, I would receive a Catholic education, rich with Catholic theology and the truth, along with a Catholic environment saturated with Catholic morals and Catholic practices. Where has all the Catholicism gone? Why is it so exhausting and challenging to be Catholic at BC? I have never been as radical about my faith as I am now, but that is not because BC is an amazing Catholic university and environment. Rather, my faith has been strengthened by the fact that I have to constantly defend the Faith, to stand up for the truth and do all I can to live a good life in accordance with Catholic morals and the Gospels. I am part of a minority that would be the majority if BC were truly a Catholic university.

Now, I will admit that there are some amazing Catholic students on this campus, a few wonderful organizations, and some great priests and professors who actually care about ensuring that we receive a Catholic education and have a Catholic environment in which to live and grow in our faith. Yet, these are, as I said, in the minority.

When did national ratings, "fitting in," and being politically correct become more important than the truth? I understand that the administration and many professors have their own opinions concerning theology, what it means to be Catholic, and what a Catholic university should be, but that does not change the fact that they are mere opinions (and not necessarily valid opinions at that) — opinions that should never have found their way into a Catholic university.

Furthermore, why does this "Catholic" university not adhere to the Magisterium of the Church? BC does not

seem to teach solid Catholic theology, nor does it fully challenge its students to live Catholic lives in accordance with the Gospels. One must be careful when selecting courses and professors, if one wishes to actually receive a Catholic education as opposed to allowing one's mind to be filled with opinions and lies. The BC lifestyle — chock-full of random hook-ups and excessive drinking — speaks of the way in which Boston College (generally speaking) ignores Catholic moral teaching, the dignity of the human person, and the spiritual well-being of its students.

We deserve solid Catholic theology, and we must stop partaking in a licentious lifestyle that does not reflect a love and desire for Christ. Boston College is full of vibrant, driven, passionate students who dedicate a large part of their time at school to helping others and giving of themselves. What I find disturbing, however, is that some service organizations have become just one more excuse to have parties and "hook up" with people. This is not what service is about. This is not Catholicism, not living for Christ. This is moral relativism. It is making excuses for ourselves to justify sin. It is treating ourselves and others as mere objects for entertainment and pleasure and not as temples of God. There is an inexorable connection between service and personal holiness. Why is that this connection is watered down, blurred, and even forgotten at BC? We cannot, as Colleen Carroll, an esteemed Catholic writer, say, "divorce the call to serve from the quest for personal holiness. In doing this, we produce disciples of Christ."

Too many students at BC enjoy "feel good" Catholicism, comprised of catch phrases like "I don't ever feel right" and "everything is all right as long as you're a good person." They embrace moral relativism and refuse to allow Catholicism to permeate all aspects of their lives. Too few students have a fully integrated faith life and embrace all aspects of their faith — including the difficult doctrine and challenging moral standards. Real Catholics desire to live out Jesus' call to holiness in conjunction with His call to



Father Leahy talks with some students in St. Ignatius Gate Residence Hall.

fight for the poor and oppressed. He demands more than just a few good deeds. He demands our lives.

I plead with the administration and professors who are not working in full accord with the Magisterium of the Church and refuse to uphold *Ea Corde Ecclesiae* to please think again. We deserve more, and we demand more than this. We want the truth. Why do we have co-ed dorms at a Catholic university? Why do we allow things like the *Vagina Monologues* that preach a false and unhealthy view of sexuality to plague our campus and infuse our students' minds with lies? Why doesn't our theology department (or any department) have all of its professors adhere to the Magisterium of the Church? Why does Boston College turn a blind eye to the well-known parties that occur after certain service trips? Why are so many students dedicated to service, yet only a small number dedicate time to pro-life activities? Why has the president of NARAL (one of the largest abortion advocate organizations in the country) been invited to speak at Boston College? Why don't students know what the Catholic Church really teaches about issues like voting, the Eucharist, homosexuality and women in the priesthood? How often do we attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Why don't we have a 24-hour chapel on our Catholic campus with the Eucharist reserved? How many of us really know about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist? Where has all the Catholicism gone? It's time to step up, be a Catholic university and give our students the education environment and lifestyle they need and deserve. St. Paul gives perhaps the best advice of all: "Do not conform yourself to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

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Editorials

Culture Clash Divides America

This election season has witnessed a political polarization and division between Americans that has not faced this country for generations. Such animosity between political rivals has been seen only a few times since the founding of our successful experiment. We have had regional conflicts (the Civil War) and generational conflicts (The World War I and Vietnam generations). In 2004, a new clash has divided this country more than it has been torn for over a century. Cultural and ideological differences, which transcend region or ancestry, have torn this country asunder and have defined the extreme polarization of this election. The divisions at Boston College embody these cultural conflicts.

Howard Dean became famous during the Democratic primaries for his infamous statement, "I am tired of coming to the South and fighting elections on guns, God, and gays." Although taking a lot of heat for the remark after losing, Howard Dean incorporated that statement into his stump speech, which he brought to Boston College on October 5, 2004. His controversial remark received an embracing applause from the New England liberal student body. His statement typifies the cultural clash. What Howard Dean fails to comprehend is that the fact that the elitist secularist attack on the values of many in the South and throughout the country—the attack on religious traditions and culture—has forced elections in the South to be fought over guns, God, and gays. Elections fought over these issues are the necessary result of the attack on those values. If Howard Dean and his allies would concede their positions on the values of guns, God and gays, then there would be no objection or conflict and elections would not be held on those issues. It is because of this cultural clash, with two cultures battling for supremacy at the national level, that elections are based on these cultural issues.

John Kerry's remark during the third presidential debate could not have articulated better the worldview of the Left that has so clashed with traditional America. Kerry said, "Because we are the United States of America, we're a country with a great, unbelievable Constitution, with rights that we afford people—that you can't discriminate in the workplace. You can't discriminate in the rights that you afford people. At a moment's glance, one

might not notice the exposing nature of this remark, but for someone as intellectually acute and articulate as John Kerry, he knew exactly what he was saying about the government's job to "afford" rights.

According to the Declaration of Independence, the rights of mankind are "self-evident," "endowed" on mankind by God, and are "inalienable." The Declaration's idea that government is merely instituted to protect God-given rights is the antithesis of the government's ability to "afford" rights. It is the clash between these two viewpoints from which there erupts cultural clash. Conservatives continue to cherish the Declaration's worldview that God has created man and because of this, man has inalienable rights including life, liberty and property. It is the secularists who believe government affords these rights (and thus can take them away).



This belief can lead to a very fluid interpretation of the Constitution and rulings based on popular opinion or public sentiment (i.e., *Roe v. Wade*) as opposed to a strict interpretation of the Constitution that denies the idea that the government can simply afford a new right to the people (or take the right to life away from a particular group, unborn living human beings).

The result of these two warring viewpoints has been a cultural clash so profound that it threatens our republican form of government. At Boston College, conservatives and liberals clash on issues not because they disagree on how to get to a certain end, but because they disagree on the end itself. The Global Justice Project has wrapped itself around "social justice," a term that they have bastardized to such an extent that it has become code for communism. While conservatives believe that the goal of government is to protect God-given rights to life, liberty, and property, the Leftist denies that this country was founded on God and

instead pursues a country where the state plays the role of God, affording rights and happiness. This is how we get the warring viewpoints over the Ten Commandments in public places, over the right to life that is hampered by abortion, over the right to property denied by the redistribution of wealth.

Conflicts at Boston College typify the broader clash between cultures across the country. On one end, the conservatives of the St. Thomas More Society, the Pro-Life Club, the College Republicans, the Boston College Observer, and various Christian groups who hold a God-based worldview run into direct conflict with the new form of French Jacobinism (a secularist French view that government affords man rights) that has permeated the Left worldview. They are exemplified in the Global Justice Project, the College Democrats, "GBC," "GBC," and the pro-choice groups on campus.

The reason why neither side can seem to relate to the other in this election—with the Left and Right so polarized against the other to the degree of hateful extremism—is due to the fact that the very idea of government and the future of this country is at stake. If John Kerry appoints judges to the Supreme Court who believe like he does (that man is free to right), the values of American culture, which are God-based, culturally will be adversely hampered well into the future. Meanwhile, if George W. Bush is able to appoint judges who maintain the traditional view of the Constitution and God's central role in its founding, the Left will experience a fatal blow because they will be set back on their quest for a secularist system.

This culture clash came to full form in the battle for the presidency in 2004. If this clash were regional, secession might be the topic of conversation. The Euro-French Jacobinism that holds government supreme has made its way into leftist society within the United States and has clashed violently with the traditional American founding values that we have held for two hundred and twenty-eight years. George W. Bush and John Kerry respectively embodied each side, culture making this election so very polarizing and of extreme importance. George W. Bush's victory was essential to the preservation of our traditional culture.

A Blow to BC's Catholic Mission

BC students were betrayed yesterday by their own faculty in the formation of a Lesbian and Gay Faculty, Staff, and Administrator Association (LGFSAA). Nominally a support group for gay and lesbian employees at BC and their allies, the LGFSAA was formed primarily to solidify the gay community among faculty and give them a more welcoming environment. Sadly, these good intentions, as well as some less noble motivations, are poised instead to add to the divisive ongoing debate at the university about how to address GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered) issues on campus. Not that this is clear until you sift through the blankets of spin put on the initiative by The Heights, and certain faculty members contacted for the story.

The need for the group was defended by Prof. McDargh in Theology, who pointed out the prominence of tenure and of university politics in faculty employment, often leading to stressful job, insecurity for sexual minorities. What this new leave out, of course, is the mission of any liberal arts university to educate its students and form their characters. Boston College boasts a long tradition of these missions, with a world-class research faculty and a Jesuit history of community service and advocating for social justice. In recent years however, Catholic schools across the country have struggled with how to maintain their identity in the midst of social controversies like gay rights. Disappointingly, most have chosen the path of least resistance: failing the students and their parents by obscuring the Church's teaching on social issues.

While Prof. McDargh in Theology and Scanlon in LSOC performed admirable vital acrobatics to reconcile the LGFSAA with BC's Jesuit mission, Prof. Jeff Cohen in Accounting was far more blunt. In a stroke of honesty uncharacteristic of such initiatives, Cohen portrayed himself and his colleagues as modern-day Martin Luther King, Jr., leading the fight for gay rights at a repressive Catholic university. One can only assume his comments were not the official line of the faculty organization, as they are so reticent, candid about the real aims of the support group. They betray a deeper problem with the faculty initiative, however clearly not all its members are as practiced in hiding their motivations. While it is certain that many in the

LGFSAA are motivated by genuine care for their fellow gays and lesbians on the faculty, they are serving the agenda of others who are disturbingly hostile to Catholics and their beliefs. "Love the sinner, hate the sin." This is an age-old, loving doctrine of the Church. If Cohen had his way, even speakers who presumed to mention it would be banned from the university. It is not enough to support gays in publicly flouting the school's Catholic mission. We must now ban those who criticize the sexual orientation of individuals, since Cohen made clear that it is the "hating the sin" part that offends him, this would include any Catholic who understands the faith.

The BC faculty failed spectacularly in their duty to uphold the Catholic values of the university and to conduct themselves in a way that confirms those values. Those professors involved in this endeavor and their administrative supporters have thrown in the towel at best, and at worst taken up arms against the Jesuit ideals they claim to support. The Church's teachings on sexuality are profound, courageous, and countercultural. God gave us sex for more than just affection. There is sacrifice involved. Responsibility to help Him create new life. Mothers and fathers have their own special roles to play in sex and in families. These ideas are revolutionary, but they are mocked as reactionary. They are born from love, but mocked as leading to hate. Now is not the time to further dilute and obscure the Church's message by sanctioning whatever GLBT "awareness" the new group will add to the community.

Faculty teaching at a Catholic college is trusted by parents to make sacrifices for their students. Some heroically bear the cross of a Christian lifestyle. Others respectfully keep their private divergence from that lifestyle to themselves, without flaunting their defiance of Catholic teachings. And as the faculty behind the LGFSAA have shown, some loudly and publicly reject Christ's message about sexuality, and set out to support others in the university who would wear on their sleeves their disregard for the school's Catholic mission. The LGFSAA may very well help some gay faculty find acceptance at BC, but by turning previously casual meetings into public, formal events, they have turned their backs on the mission of the university. And the real victims are the students.

Sports

Republicans in the Sports World

Schilling Campaigns for Bush

Grier Potter
THE OBSERVER

Hello, this is Grier, your sports editor. You may have noticed that the sports page is all Red Sox this issue. And while I don't like to eclipse all the other magnificent things that occurred in Boston sports this week, it cannot be argued that the Red Sox take the cake a hundred times over by winning the World Series.

The Head of the Chorus, as this week, but that happens every year. The Patriots extended their winning streak to 21 games, but they've already ended their drought with two Super Bowls. Boston College dramatically beat Notre Dame in football—for the fourth time in a row. But the Red Sox winning the World Series? Well, most of us won't live to see that again.

One interesting adbit about the festivities surrounding the Red Sox win is that Curt Schilling was forced to cancel a Bush campaign appearance in New Hampshire. The *Boston Herald* speculated that maybe the team's owners, having demonstrated their strong support for John Kerry, recommended that Schilling not shut for Bush, under the pretense of being his aide. However, since Schilling had already effectively given his endorsement by saying that he would appear on Bush's behalf, Schilling's actual appearance is perhaps

a moot point. What remains is that while flashier, folk-wood types, such as Ben Affleck, a 10 Jennifer Garner put their check in the Kerry box, for the most part, your "Bunch of Idiots" in Boston are republicans.

Don't for a minute think that Schilling is an anomaly on the Red Sox. Pick your favorite player and the likelihood

to do things for you. You work hard, you make sure you get noticed, you play fair, and then it pays off. Democrats have this kind of people—the ones that were rewarded mostly for being really good at something and working hard at it. It's so much easier to say we'll just tax the rich people, because they didn't even earn that money.

Baseball players like the Red Sox know that's not true. They all earned their place on that World Series Team. And, thus is why athletes are Republicans. The fact is, people who work hard for their money understand that the more taxes there are, the more people there are that are getting more money for doing nothing.

Democrats live in fear that Americans will figure out that it is not a myth that if you work hard, you can improve your situation. I personally know that I will never become Bill Gates, because I am not possessed of his superior intellect. But I do know that by working hard, I will end up better off than my parents, at the same age. Take Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks. He didn't have money when he started out. He inherited a pat on the back from Daddy. So Cuban chose to go to the best business school that he could afford because was paying for it himself. He could have sat on his couch and whined that it was unfair that he

didn't have the dough to pay for Wharton. But he didn't. And now, the guy is one of the richest on the planet. I know Mark Cuban is not the best example in the world, because he is a big-mouth who takes pleasure in offending people. But you really can't argue with success. He just wanted it bad enough.

Isn't that what you'd say about the Red Sox? They just wanted it bad enough. In the words of Pedro

Martinez: they didn't care about any "freakin' curse." They didn't care about looking perfect all the time, as John W. "Jesus" Damon can attest. Schilling doesn't care that he may have ended his career by bringing Boston a World Series. He just went up on the mound, suzzies and all, and left it all on the field. Literally, blood, sweat and tears, and nothing else ended this curse. That's what it's all about.



hond is high that he's on the right side. Kevin Millar, Keith Foulke? The explanation is that many of the Red Sox are from places where they have their hands tied on straight. I can't believe I'm saying this, but like Texas and Michigan. Even the important heroes of Red Sox past such as Pudge Fisk and Dennis Eckersley know that there's only one candidate for president that's not going to tax them to death.

This shouldn't surprise you. Sure, anyone playing major league baseball is extraordinarily lucky as well as being incredibly athletically gifted. But you don't become the best at what you do by waiting around for other people

in fear that Americans will figure out that it is not a myth that if you work hard, you can improve your situation. I personally know that I will never become Bill Gates, because I am not possessed of his superior intellect. But I do know that by working hard, I will end up better off than my parents, at the same age. Take Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks. He didn't have money when he started out. He inherited a pat on the back from Daddy. So Cuban chose to go to the best business school that he could afford because was paying for it himself. He could have sat on his couch and whined that it was unfair that he

Election diary, cont'd

Continued from page 7

10:50 Pennsylvania goes to John Kerry, this was kind of expected, but he's running better here than I had previously thought. We went out of it yet, though b/c we're still up in Florida and Ohio. Still, it is disappointing that President Bush went to PA more than any other state, yet still failed to garner its electoral vote.

11:00 I still have yet to start my finance project due in the morning, but as of now there are many races still to be determined. David Vitter is holding steady at 52% in Louisiana, and with any luck he'll win this Senate seat. Watch that GOP third gain on Bush in the prime-time debate and in the house, so a good night to him.

11:26 Still feeling upbeat about our chances tonight across the board. Looks like the GOP will increase gains in the House and Senate. As for the Presidential race, Bush won in Florida and Ohio, but the races are still too close to call, and might be too close to call for a while. I'll check back in a while and update again.

12:25 AM Florida goes to President Bush! This is a major victory on the road to a more year! Not only did Bush win, but he was comfortable by a 5-point margin here. Early results show that Bush does better in all areas of the state. This is a big step for John Kerry, who won Florida. Bush might as well start packing his bags. But now we have elected the playing field and are in view of the game-winning touchdown. Ohio

12:40 In the Louisiana Senate race, David Vitter becomes the first Republican ever elected to Louisiana. Richard Burr also scores a solid victory in his Senate race over in New Carolina. This is a solid victory for three GOP Republicans who had not been thought to win tonight, but have been strong among blue collar voters and conservative Catholics (read Reagan/Miller Democrats) and have managed to pull through for the GOP. I've estimated that the Senate remains a GOP hands, which is critical for a 2nd term in the President's

pushing through his agenda, as well as for ensuring the GOP chairs the continued.

12:41 Ken Sakas, (D), is running ahead in the senate race in Colorado against brewer Pete Coors. This might turn out to be the only success for the Democrats all night, which would be to replace the moderate Ben Nighthorse Campbell. In Florida senate race, Mel Martinez, the former FLDP Secretary, is running neck and neck with Edny Garcia, but he's beginning to pull slightly ahead.

12:42 SENATE: HOUSE: WANTS: OHIO: I think it's amazing news. Despite all the efforts of the Kerry campaign and liberal special interest groups running hard here, Bush's consistency and principled leadership won the day. Bush is now at 269 EC, which means that as soon as the results from any remaining state go to him, like Nevada, or Alaska, or Montana, Bush will be elected to a second term. I have to get down on my knees and say thank you to the good Lord for allowing this one to happen. Although this isn't official yet, this is a major victory.

2:00 AM It looks like Mel Martinez is going to finish his senate race in Florida, and incumbent John Murkowski (R-AK) will hold his Senate seat as well. Even though challenger Tony Knowles tried to use reputation against Mr. Murkowski, because of other factors opposing him to the 44th, it's likely for such in this heavily Republican frontier. What might make Republicans they have gained 3-4 seats in the house and senate seats. From coast to coast, and everything in between, the map shows many more red states and I can't stop smiling and I am in the belief of the more victory tonight. Although, I can't compare race, he's taken to the GOP a major challenge, most importantly the President's four more years. As I go to bed, I have you with two thoughts: one, four more years Second Lord these America. Goodnight.

Celebrating a Red Sox Victory

Finally They Bring Home a Series

Michael Roth
THE OBSERVER

"THE RED SOX XXXX WINN TTTTHHHEETL RFEEEDDD SOOXXXXX WIIINNNNN!!!!!! If only we could get the annoying Yankees' announcer, John Sterling, to yell that So the Red Sox finally won the World Series. After 86 long and disappointing years, the Red Sox broke the curse of Babe Ruth. In breaking *The Curse*, they in fact history as well.

After being down 3-0 to the Yankees, the Red Sox impressed the baseball world by making history and becoming the first team to come back from a three game deficit. They owe their comeback to their remarkable team chemistry and their impressive composure. The self-described "Bunch of Idiots" never looked like they felt any pressure being down to their final out in game four against the Yankees. Then Big Papi, the only Red Sox player who hit consistently throughout the playoffs came to the rescue and the rest is now history.

The Red Sox went into the World Series with the momentum on their side, going against the Cardinals the best team in baseball during the regular season was a pretty daunting task. The Cardinals were coming off a dramatic series of their own. After losing the three games at Houston they came back to St. Louis and won game 6 & 7, overcoming Roger Clemens in game 7. With a lineup that matched if not surpassed the Red Sox, the series with the Cardinals looked to be very interesting. The difference, as in all series, was pitching. I would say, pitching and defense, but the Red Sox proved that wrong after committing eight errors in the first two games of the World Series. After not having any error against the Yankees. Nevertheless, the combination of Red Sox pitching and the complete lack of Cardinals' offense made for a quick and somewhat boring World Series.

However, that does not diminish the performance of the Red Sox, whose offense was overpowering and whose pitching was finally the consistent dominant force they had hoped it would be. Huge performances were put in by Wakefield

and Lowe, which made the difference in the series. Everyone knew Schilling would pitch well, even on 1-2 ankles, and that Pedro usually comes up big in big games, as long as he's not pitching against the Yankees, so it was a huge boost to have Wakefield and Lowe pitch the way they did.

Now, it's time to just sit back and soak in the fact that the Red Sox are World Champs. Instead of reading in the papers about how they need to catch up to the Yankees, the Red Sox can read about how Steinbrenner will try to outspend the Red Sox, by at least \$100 million just to be as competitive as the Sox. While it will be fun to watch Steinbrenner diminish his bank account on all-stars from last year, the Red Sox will also have an interesting off-season. The Red Sox have 17 free agents, the biggest of which are Jason Vantek, Pedro Martinez, Derek Lowe, and Orlando Cabrera.

The Red Sox don't need to worry about that just yet though. For the time being they can sit back and enjoy being World Champs.